HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

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JOHN BARTRAM HOUSE AND GARDEN, GREENHOUSE (Seed House)

HALS No. PA-1-B

54th Street and Lindbergh Boulevard Philadelphia Independent City Pennsylvania

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Joseph Elliott, Photographer, Summer 2001

NOTE: The greenhouse is not oriented true to the compass. In this report the following designations will be used: the board-and-batten wall faces southeast and will be referred to as "east;" the southwest wall with the gable and decorative stone will be "south;" the northwest wall with the door will be "west;" and the northeast wall, now integral with the appended shed, will be "north."

PA-1-B-1	GENERAL VIEW, OUTBUILDINGS. THE SEED HOUSE—COMPOSED OF THE GREENHOUSE, A STOREROOM (SHED), A CLASSROOM (OVER A FORMER ICE PIT), AND A KITCHEN (OVER A CELLAR)—STANDS ON THE RIGHT. THE BARN ROOF IS VISIBLE AT CENTER AND THE GIFT SHOP (FORMER STABLE) STANDS ON THE LEFT (NOTE THE CARVED STONE POSTS FRAMING THE GATEWAY).
PA-1-B-2	DETAIL VIEW, EAST CARVED STONE POST. THE PAIR OF POSTS ON EITHER SIDE OF THE GATE WERE PUT IN PLACE AS PART OF THE EXTENSIVE WORK DONE TO THE HOUSE AND GROUNDS IN THE 1920s AND 1930s.
PA-1-B-3	DETAIL VIEW, WEST CARVED STONE POST (NOTE THE WEATHERING AND SPLIT).
PA-1-B-4	PERSPECTIVE VIEW, GREENHOUSE, FROM THE SOUTHWEST. THE GREENHOUSE IS THE PORTION OF THE SEED HOUSE TO THE RIGHT (SOUTH) OF THE DOUBLE DOORS.
PA-1-B-5	GREENHOUSE AND STOREROOM, WEST ELEVATION. PORTIONS OF THE STOREROOM MIGHT PREDATE THE GREENHOUSE CONSTRUCTION (1760-1761), HOWEVER THE TWO STRUCTURES WERE NOT LINKED UNTIL LATE IN THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY OR EARLY IN THE NINETEENTH CENTURY.

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PA-1-B-6	DETAIL VIEW, GREENHOUSE, EAST ELEVATION.
PA-1-B-7	GREENHOUSE, SOUTH ELEVATION.
PA-1-B-8	DETAIL VIEW, GREENHOUSE, SOUTH WALL (NOTE THE FRAGMENTS OF CARVED FRIEZE AND THE CONSTRUCTION SEAM RUNNING ACROSS THE UPPERRIGHT-HAND CORNER OF THE PHOTOGRAPH. THE SOUTH WALL WAS EXTENDED EASTWARD AND UPWARD IN THE NINETEENTH CENTURY IN ORDER TO ACCOMMODATE THE A NEW ALL-ENCOMPASSING ROOF FOR THE FOUR ADJACENT UNITS).
PA-1-B-9	DETAIL VIEW, GREENHOUSE, FRAGMENT OF DORIC FRIEZE LOCATED IN THE SOUTH WALL (NOTE THE DECORATIVE MORTAR WORK KNOWN AS GALLETING IN WHICH SMALL STONES ARE IMBEDDED ON THE SURFACE OF THE MORTAR).
PA-1-B-10	DETAIL VIEW, GREENHOUSE, SOUTH WALL. THESE GROUND-LEVEL OPENINGS WERE PART OF THE ORIGINAL HEATING SYSTEM USED TO WARM THE GREENHOUSE. THE OPENINGS WERE LIKELY RELATED TO THE FLUES, WHILE A LARGER OPENING TO THE WEST (NOT IN PHOTOGRAPH) CONTAINED AN EXTERIOR-FED IRON STOVE.
PA-1-B-11	GENERAL VIEW, SEED HOUSE, FROM THE SOUTHEAST.
PA-1-B-12	SEED HOUSE, EAST ELEVATION.
PA-1-B-13	GREENHOUSE, EAST ELEVATION. THE BOARD-AND-BATTEN WALL COVERS AN OPENING THAT WAS ORIGINALLY FITTED WITH WINDOWS WHICH ALLOWED SUNLIGHT INTO THE GREENHOUSE.
PA-1-B-14	INTERIOR VIEW, GREENHOUSE, FROM THE DOOR IN THE WEST WALL. THE TIMBERS EXTENDING HORIZONTALLY ACROSS THE EAST WALL AND POCKETED INTO THE STONE NORTH AND SOUTH WALLS WOULD HAVE ORIGINALLY SUPPORTED THE WINDOW SASH.

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PA-1-B-15	INTERIOR VIEW, GREENHOUSE, FROM THE NORTHWEST. THE GREENHOUSE INTERIOR WAS QUITE MODEST, THE SPACE BETWEEN THE FLOOR OF THE LOWER LEVEL AND THE JOISTS CARRYING THE LOFT FLOOR IS ONLY FIVE-AND-ONE-HALF FEET.
PA-1-B-16	INTERIOR VIEW, GREENHOUSE, SOUTH WALL TAKEN FROM THE GROUND. THE ORIGINAL FLOOR HEIGHT IS INDICATED BY THE JOISTS ON THE LEFT. THE LARGE OPENING ON THE RIGHT WAS FORMERLY FITTED WITH AN EXTERIOR-FED IRON STOVE USED TO HEAT THE SPACE ON PARTICULARLY COLD DAYS.
PA-1-B-17	INTERIOR VIEW, GREENHOUSE, NORTH WALL TAKEN FROM THE GROUND. STUCCO—PAINTED WHITE—COVERED THE INTERIOR WALLS IN ORDER TO SEALOFF ANY DRAFTS AND TO REFLECT THE SUNLIGHT ENTERING THROUGH THE EAST-FACING WINDOWS.
PA-1-B-18	DETAIL VIEW, GREENHOUSE, NORTH WALL (NOTE THE TYPE OF STONE USED IN THE WALL CONSTRUCTION, THE DEGRADATION OF THE INTERIOR STUCCO, AND ONE OF THE POCKETS FOR A FORMER FLOOR JOIST).
PA-1-B-19	DETAIL VIEW, GREENHOUSE, WEST WALL DOOR THRESHOLD.
PA-1-B-20	GENERAL VIEW, OUTBUILDINGS, FROM THE SOUTHWEST. FROM RIGHT TO LEFT: THE SEED HOUSE, THE FORMER COACH HOUSE (NOW MULTI-USE SPACE AND THE ARCHIVES), AND THE FORMER STABLE. BEHIND THESE BUILDINGS ARE A BANK BARN (NOW MULTI-USE SPACE) AND A NEW OFFICE/RESTROOM STRUCTURE LOCATED ON THE SITE OF A NINETEENTH-CENTURY FRAME FARM BUILDING.
PA-1-B-21	GENERAL VIEW, OUTBUILDINGS, FROM THE SOUTHEAST. THE BUILDING IN THE FOREGROUND IS THE REAR OF THE FORMER COACH HOUSE WITH THE BARN STRUCTURE BEHIND. THESE ARE LINKED BY A STONE WALL DEFINING THE BARNYARD.

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GREENHOUSE, SOUTH ELEVATION. THIS WINTER 2002 VIEW WAS TAKEN BY JOSEPH ELLIOTT WHILE CONDUCTING PHOTOGRAPHIC DOCUMENTATION OF THE LANDSCAPE.